

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A vessel for treating wort in beer brewing, comprising in combination: a wort guiding screen (3, 22, 30, 34) arranged in the vessel's interior and provided with a heating means, and a feed pipe (5) ending above said wort guiding screen (3) for discharging wort from above onto said wort guiding screen.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a free feed cross-section (S) of the wort on said wort guiding screen is variable.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 2, wherein said feed pipe (5) is arranged to be vertically adjustable above said wort guiding screen.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen (3, 22, 30, 34) is designed as a double-walled screen through the interior of which a heating medium can be guided.

Claim 6 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen covers at least two thirds of the basic area of the vessel (1).

Claim 7 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen is cone-shaped.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 7, wherein the angle of inclination of said wort guiding screen relative to the horizontal is between 20° and 40°.

Claim 9 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein the wort vessel is connected as an evaporation vessel between a wort kettle and a plate cooler.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein the wort vessel is combined as a pre-run vessel with a wort kettle.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein the wort vessel (40) is preferably combined with a pre-run vessel (66).

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen comprises at least two guiding surfaces (22) that are superimposed in cascade-like fashion.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen is designed as a conical surface (30) with a downward orientation of the tip of the cone.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen is designed as a cylindrical surface (34) on the inner circumference of which the wort is guided in the manner of a spiral to run downwards.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein said wort guiding screen, at least in part, has a waved structure for an improved transmission of heat.

Claim 16 (previously amended): A method for boiling wort in beer brewing, comprising the step of discharging the wort onto an inclined, heated guiding surface from which it flows down and spreads into a sheet and is thereby heated.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The method according to claim 16, and the step of guiding the wort over the guiding surface by circulation by a pump.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The method according to claim 16, and wherein said wort boiling is carried out in at least two phases, the first phase comprising heating up of wort by pumping over said heated guiding surface, and the second phase comprising boiling of wort by pumping over said heated guiding surface.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The method according to claim 18, and wherein said second phase is followed by a third phase comprising stripping the wort by pumping over said heated guiding surface.

Claim 20 (previously amended): The method according to claim 18, and wherein in said first phase the pumping amount is chosen to be larger than in said second phase.

Claim 21 (previously amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein in said third phase the pumping amount is chosen to be smaller than in said first and second phases.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the heat amount supplied to said guiding surface is chosen to be higher in said first phase than in said second phase.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The method according to claim 22, and the step of controlling the supply of the heat amount by adjusting different steam pressures for said heated guiding surface when heated with superheated steam.

Claim 24 (previously amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the layer thickness of the wort flow over said guiding surface is less than 20 mm.

Claim 25 (previously amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the flow rate of the wort over said guiding surface ranges from between 0.2 m/s to 1 m/s.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The vessel according to claim 5, wherein said heating medium is steam.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The vessel according to claim 1, wherein the wort vessel is connected as an evaporation vessel between a whirlpool kettle and a plate cooler.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The vessel according to claim 15, wherein said waved structure for said surface of said wort guiding screen is corrugated.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The vessel according to claim 15, wherein said second phase is followed by a rest phase prior to said third phase.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 24, wherein said layer thickness of the wort is within the range between 1 and 10 mm.